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## **ABSTRACT:**

The invention relates to polymeric colloidal particles having a short, low molecular weight diamine spacer or polymeric, crosslinked aminodextran coating that is functionalized to bind a pendent protein such as antibody, to methods of making such particles, to the use of such particles in biological assays, to the effects of thermal and freeze-drying treatment of such particles on their stability and structure as dectected from their interactions with leukocytes in biological assays with whole blood on the nonspecific interactions between leukocytes and aminodextran-coated beads.

